

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1213
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
IMPLEMENTATION OF MATERNITY BENEFIT SCHEME
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides any antenatal or postnatal financial assistance to the women living below poverty line in urban and rural areas under the National Maternity Benefit Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have set any criteria to ensure that this amount reaches the needy women;
- (d) whether any arrangement has been made to give wide publicity to this in order to generate awareness in the remote villages about the Schemes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Under National Maternity Benefit Scheme financial assistance is extended at the rate Rs. 500/- per pregnancy for the first two live births to the women belonging to house holds below poverty line who have attained 19 years of age or above. The maternity benefit is normally disbursed 12-8 weeks prior to the delivery.

(c) The scheme provides that Gram Panchayats/Municipalities will play an active role in the identification of beneficiaries under the scheme. The scheme also stipulates that the Central assistance is preferably disbursed in public meetings, such as gram sabha meetings in the rural areas and neighbourhood/mohalla committee meetings in urban areas.

(d) & (e) The State/UT Governments have been advised to ensure wide and continuous publicity to the benefits under the Scheme and the procedures through posters, brochures, media and other means. They shall ensure that application forms are widely available in local languages. Procedure for verification of applications should be prompt and simple. District Collectors or any other officers who have been given the nodal responsibility of implementation of the scheme has also been made responsible for giving wide publicity to the scheme & its procedures in their Districts. The Panchayats/Municipalities has been made responsible for disseminating information about the scheme and the procedure for obtaining benefits under it. The States & Districts are also provided with funds to meet administrative expenses.